

DPRC
COUNTY OF ORANGE
DEVELOPMENT PROCESSING REVIEW COMMITTEE
A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPOINTED VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP

January 21, 2005

County of Orange Board of Supervisors
One Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Subject: Development Processing Review Committee
Annual Report

Dear Supervisors:

In May of 2003 the Development Processing Review Committee (DPRC) submitted to you a statement of our role within the County and we identified ongoing goals for our committee. The four goals are:

1. Act as an advocate for an efficient and cost effective development review process.
2. Strive to simplify, clarify and streamline the development review process.
3. Ensure consistent application of policies and procedures, codes and regulations in the development review process.
4. Facilitate communication between the public and private sectors.

In an effort to remain accountable to your Board, below is a summary of our work during 2004 as it relates to the goals of DPRC.

1. Advocate an efficient and cost effective process.

- Along with the Building Industry Association, the DPRC worked with RDMD staff to present the Board with an Action Plan for improvement of the County's building plan-check and building inspection process. The Board authorized this Action Plan in August 2004, and asked that RDMD, DPRC and BIA present a six months review/update, in February 2005. Much has been accomplished since August, and more progress is anticipated in early 2005.
- DPRC has been consulted by RDMD staff regarding upgrades to the RDMD and PDSD websites. The new RDMD website is due to be unveiled in early 2005.

2. Strive to streamline the development process

- DPRC has been very involved in decisions made to restructure RDMD as a result of the merger of PDSD and PFRD.
- Several important streamlining and updating revisions have been made to the Orange County Subdivision Manual and Code as a result of input of professionals coordinated through a DPRC subcommittee.

3. Ensure consistent application of policies and procedures in the development review process

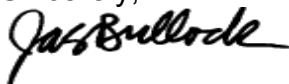
- At the urging of the DPRC, RDMD will unveil an on-line building plan check and inspection manual in January 2005. This manual will facilitate builders knowing exactly what should be on the plans and included in structures, hopefully eliminating guesswork, arbitrary decisions and delays. This approach is called the "open book test" philosophy by the DPRC: The goal should be for builders to "pass the test" so why not give them the answers?

4. Facilitate communication between the public and private sectors.

- DPRC continues to serve as a valuable sounding board for a diverse group of constituents, including RDMD, PDS, master developers, builders, engineers, design professionals and processing consultants.

We hope that 2005 brings increased cooperation and progress for these various constituents of the DPRC. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or areas that you'd like to see us concentrate our efforts in 2005.

Sincerely,



Jay Bullock, Chair
Development Processing Review Committee

Cc: DPRC Members
Bryan Speegle, Director, RDMD
Tim Neely, Director, PDS
Francisco Alonso, PDS
John Buzas, PDS